

CITY OF ANDREW

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ANDREW, IA 52030

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January 10, 2012

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Final Determination to Close the Andrew, IA Post Office 52030Posted 12/28/2011
Docket: 1353067-52030

Dear Chairman Goldway:

The United States Postal Service has issued a "Final Determination to Close" the Andrew, Iowa Post Office.

On behalf of the Andrew City Council, the residents and businesses of the City of Andrew, and the customers of the Andrew, Iowa Post Office, this letter will serve as an appeal to this determination to close.

Being in contact with so many other towns facing the same dilemma, I have discovered that we are just one of many that feel the USPS has exhibited unprofessional conduct from the beginning and throughout this process.

It began with the community meeting held on June 16, 2011. The letter sent to all Andrew Post Office customers stated that postal representatives would be available to answer questions and information would be provided. The meeting was attended by not only town residents and business personnel but of many rural residents concerned about what the loss of the post office meant to their community. There were no direct answers given to questions and the only information provided was what type of service would be provided when the post office closed. We were promised written response to questions. The response received was clearly a canned form and made it even more obvious that the concerns stated at the meeting were definitely not given any regard by the postal department and the meeting was held just to meet USPS requirements. We have doubts that since the responses are predetermined if any of the other facts documented are true or prefabricated to make the decision to close the office conclusive.

The USPS Handbook PO-101- Section 22, Preposal Investigation, states a requirement that postal officials *"meet with civic leaders, such as the mayor and local business managers. Working with the Facilities Service Office, look for potential alternate quarters and*

community Post Office (CPO) sites. Inquire into community interest and availability of quarters for contracting a CPO". There were no such meetings held. The City made an offer of a City building rent free to offset the cost of the current post office site both verbally at the community meeting and in writing in a letter to Karen Lenane at the Cedar Rapids office, the Hawkeye District Consumer Affairs and the Postal Regulator Commission. Was this offer ever even discussed during the evaluation involving the decision to close the post office? The offer is still on the table and involves a building that once housed a bank and is currently the City Hall. There has been no effort to contact the City regarding location of any proposed NDCBUs, CBUs and Parcel Lockers or the City's ordinances relating to the same. Shouldn't that be a requirement for the USPS to abide by City's ordinances or is the USPS above the law regarding local authority?

We feel the USPS has failed to recognize the negative effect on our community for such a small savings it will gain by closing the post office. Andrew lost its high school in 2011 and every effort will have to be made to retain our pre-kindergarten through 8th grades. The loss of the post office will definitely put an extra burden and expense on the school. The loss of the post office can certainly be an indirect reason for the school's failure which leads to the loss of families that have moved to Andrew because of the availability of a quality education in our small community.

Our community has had some losses of businesses in the past few years but we are regaining several new ones, including some in the surrounding rural area and all rely on our Andrew Post Office for their mailings, shipping of their products, receipt of incoming parcels, and more. The response from many of these businesses is that their postal needs will go to UPS or FedEx, which is more lost revenue for the USPS.

The statement published in the closing notice, *"The growth of a community does not depend on the location of a Post Office. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years."* In this determination, was it considered that the closing may not determine the growth but could determine the demise of the community? We adamantly feel the loss of our post office at this time will definitely be an underlying factor to our school's future and the growth of our community.

The "Economic Savings" published in the "Final Determination to Close" is vague and false information. Is this legal? We have not had a postmaster since 12/2/2009 and yet a postmaster salary and fringe benefits are used instead of the OCI's wages. There is no information given regarding the continued payment of rent for the facility for years after it is closed or a buyout of the postal facility's contract, the mail carrier's increased salary and mileage, increased cost of fuel, or the cost and installation of the NDCBUs, CBUs and Parcel Lockers required. These facts alone do not add up to "cost efficiency for rural delivery over a brick and mortar building".

The United States Postal Code, Title 39, Part 1, Chapter 1, 101 (b) states: "*The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. NO post office shall be closed for operating at a deficit. It is the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal service be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities.*" We feel the USPS has not followed their own rules and are only requesting that the Postal Regulatory Commission examine the facts that led to the conclusion to close the Andrew Post Office and can honestly feel that the services conducted through a rural carrier can be at the "maximum degree of effective and regular postal service" to the Andrew Community and rural area.

We sincerely hope you can determine that the closing of this office that is not working at a deficit, can with just a few adjustments be an efficient and cost effective part of the USPS and remain a major part of our community should remain open.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ANDREW



Kathy A. Till

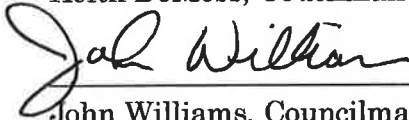
Deputy Clerk



Michael Roeder, Mayor




Keith DeMoss, Councilman



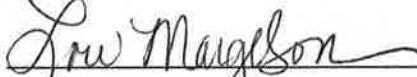
John Williams, Councilman



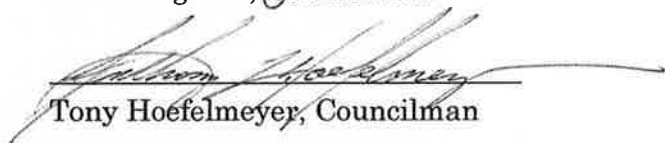
Marcella Rowan, Clerk



Gregg Sommers, Councilman



Lori Margeson, Councilwoman



Tony Hoefelmeyer, Councilman

cc: Postmaster General Patrick Donahue
Iowa Governor Terry Branstad
Senator Tom Harkin
Senator Charles E. Grassley
Representative Bruce Braley
Senator Todd Bowman
Representative Brian Moore
Iowa House Majority Leader Linda Upmeyer

PETITION FOR REVIEW

Presented to: The POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

On behalf of the residents of the City of Andrew, and the customers of the Andrew Post Office, this petition serves as an appeal of "Final Determination to Close the Andrew, IA Post Office and Establish Service by Rural Route Service" Docket #1353067-52030.

We feel the data submitted to determine the "Economic Savings" in the "*Final Determination To Close The Andrew, IA Post Office*" includes inaccurate data.

We strongly disagree that rural service could possibly be considered as a suitable alternative to "*provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service*" (as referred to in the United States Postal Code) to the patrons of the Andrew Post Office at an economic savings to the USPS, and feel data used to come to this conclusion is not factual.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Postal Regulatory Commission reverse the decision to close the Andrew Post Office.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2012.

Edon Hoerschelman

Edna Hoerschelman

Mary Eggers

Hal Eggers

Carol Eggers

Don Eggers

Stephen C. Tate

Paul A. Bliss

Ernie Leager

Weaver Covey

Jim Abmuthman

Mina Sargent

Mina Sargent
Donell Carson

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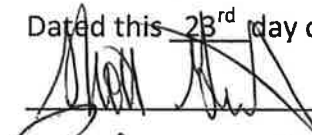

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Dated this 28th day of January, 2012.


Rebecca Weise
John E. Williams
Therese Jensen
Lara Ladale
Scott Ladale
Dennis Miel
Dorothy E. Harris

Chela Brundage
Ramona Ingham
Marquise Monie
Yvette Ingham
James Burnett
Debra Burnett


Judy Davis
Richard Davis
Paul R. Davis
Robert R. Davis
Lester Johnson
Todd M. Ladale
Janine Fardice
Angela Weise
Eric McIntosh
Doranne Beck
Toni Dume
Pat Dume
Dan Dume

And James
 Calloway
 Tom Marqu
 Sharon Ernst
 Carrie McKie
 Mike
 Rodney Hanson
 Danny Jones
 Ed Dunne
 Todd
 Kent Meyers
 Eric Yeack
 Kristine & Don Layman
 Rosanna & David Laughlin
 Tracy & Dan Laughlin
 Elizabeth Tharp
 Pat Clark
 Ed
 Dallas Jamison
 Danielle Long
 Mark Jamison
 Ally Jamison
 Trinity Long
 Braelynn Jamison
 Hailey Yeack

Amber Kohl
 Kevin Thomas
 Dustin Williams
 Dale Driscoll
 Rita Driscoll
 Sharon Jepperson
 Mallow Abel
 Jose Del
 Cheryl Williams
 Michael D
 Don Dene
 Wendy Steiman
 Gary Smith
 Melissa Miches
 Mark Emerson
 Kristen Laughlin
 Diane Bahr

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By Hillman

Kim Hillman

Matthew D. Gills

Donna E. Hillman

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Jimmy Summers
Lou Margeson
David G. Ehlers
Andy G. K. Hughes
Julie Corrie
Keith DeMoss
Colleen Klein
Gregory Donovan
Lori Wahlgren
Kara Shuey
Kary Herlach
Paul Ernst
Mike Ward
Gordon Rode
Aubree Schmitt

Jimmy Summers
Kate Kiehnhoff
Wendy Danne
Orville Leclach
Kenneth Donovan
Dia Leclach
Craig Ellis
Jody Schmitt
Bob Ellis
Mike Schmitt
Vigil Schmitt
James G. H. H. H.
James H. H. H. H.
Chris Moore
Todd Moore

Marge Gund

Richard Smith

Aradine Ehlers

LeRoy Ehlers

Robert Blake

Lynn Jordan, President Andrew Telephone Co.

Larry M. Murray

Carla J. Ehlers

John Gregorich, Gen Mgr Andrew Tele Co

Karen Hanger

Virginia Hoff

Pat J. Bock

Sue L. Chitum

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Dated this, 23rd day of January, 2012.

Michelle Breckenstedt
Callan Howan
Lea Edmunds
Fern L. Bliss
Sharon Hultner
Debra Tultner
Brie J. Schmidt
Paul Zeh
Joyce Till
Ronald Harer
Brianna Hultner
Kita Beauce
Joyce Gnade
Juditha Portz

Marcella Howan
J.R. Gnade
Carmelita Portz
Harold A. Hultner
Linda Hultner
Debra Eggers
Richard Eggers
Carol J. Bliss
Bon Bliss

Carol Krugel Gaetler

Conna J Weirup

Janice Mc Murray

Karen Langer

Bill Gattler

Long Mc Murray

Dean Ambrosy

Ryan Ambrosy

Lay Chrest

James W. Wines

Jim Till

Mary Lou Hudelik

Mark Mox

Sally Rowan

Hugh Rowan

James L. Schroeder

John Kuttner

Lois Till

Mary Horan

Kristina Blake

Ellsworth Beance